

in Kissimmee as well to be a beacon of services and of hope, a safe place in a county that welcomes inclusiveness.

I also got to go to the 49 Fund scholarship ceremony where we saw LGBT youth be awarded scholarships. These are the future leaders who talk about how they are going to lead in LGBT rights, lead in gun safety reform. But I believe education is the seed of hope to stop this hate from happening in the future, and the future is bright.

We also had Congressman MARK TAKANO come down to visit with us, the co-chair of the LGBT caucus, for an LGBTQ roundtable. We heard about how HIV funds are being cut in Florida because Federal funds are being cut, even though our State trades off with being the number one State for new HIV contraction. So this is an issue that is affecting us.

We heard there about how these transgender school guidelines were one of the first things that the Trump administration took out, which is now leading schools to uncertainty in how they have to protect these vulnerable kids.

Also, we heard even about some of the things that we take for granted, like that we are going to be having, through Zebra Coalition, an LGBTQ prom, because a lot of these kids, they get outcast in high school, and we want it to be an inclusive community. We are an inclusive community.

We also visited the Pulse nightclub memorial with Barbara Poma, and we watched the photos of grief. We looked at the names. We signed in and took our pilgrimage.

We went to the GLBT Center and heard about them coordinating services on that day and afterward, about the outpouring of love and supplies, and folks coming in to ask what they could do to help.

Then last night, we had the rally against gun violence. It rained the whole time, but people's spirits were up. This was the neatest point: It ended with an actual rainbow. Because the sun came out, a rainbow came down. It was right after our prayer, so I believe God was watching and gave us a sign with a rainbow at the end of that.

Then the Orange County Historical Museum this morning, as we saw in the photographs, we saw the memorabilia and more quilts than I have ever seen in my life, beautiful, colored tapestries, pictures of so many of our friends who fought side by side, and memorialized this great tragedy.

Lastly, we were at First United Methodist Church. The gentlewoman and I got to participate in that this morning, where we heard the 49 bells with each of the victim's names being discussed, being memorialized.

So I am going to leave it back to the gentlewoman and say it was an honor to be able to be there this morning, to hear the ringing of the 49 bells for our 49 victims, and we will never forget. I thank Congresswoman DEMINGS for spending this time with me.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, 49 bells to represent 49 people. Our community declared June 12 to be Orlando United Day, a day of love and kindness.

Today, we take time to remember the 49 angels and all of those who still carry physical and mental wounds from that day, 2 years after the attack.

I believe, Congressman SOTO, more strongly than ever, that love will win. While the pain will never go away, I do believe that we have an obligation to turn our pain into action. We will not forget those who lost their lives.

I am proud to represent a community that has acted with such incredible strength and love. I am proud to continue to honor these men and women, not only through our words, but through our actions. I am also proud to be joined by Congressman SOTO, and I thank the gentleman for his unwavering commitment and dedication to protecting our homeland, and his commitment to creating and passing meaningful legislation to keep guns out of the hands of bad people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his advocacy and his leadership on this issue, and I thank him for joining me in this day of remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2851, STOP THE IMPORTATION AND TRAFFICKING OF SYNTHETIC ANALOGUES ACT OF 2017; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5735, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR RECOVERY IN VIABLE ENVIRONMENTS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5788, SECURING THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL AGAINST OPIOIDS ACT OF 2018

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-751) on the resolution (H. Res. 934) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2851) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues are to be regulated, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5735) to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5788) to provide for the processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of certain international mail shipments and to require the provision of advance electronic information on international mail shipments of mail, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is actually one of those sort of joyful moments that we finally get a chance to come up here, and we don't very often get to do that.

We are going to have a discussion of what is happening in our economy, in our society for both our friends on the left and those of us on the right, the love of people, and the fact that they have opportunity.

When you look at the unemployment statistics, when you actually take a look at how many of our brothers and sisters are moving back into the workforce, the income, and the closing of income inequality, there are wonderful things happening out there.

The neat thing tonight, we are going to bring a number of Members from different parts of the country, particularly in the West, and we are going to talk about what they are seeing happening in their region. We are going to talk also about a little bit of the data and a handful of fairly interesting things that I am actually excited about.

So, first, I yield to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and give him an opportunity to talk about what is happening in his State.

□ 2030

Mr. GIANFORTE. I thank the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Speaker, for leading this effort. It is a pleasure for me to share with this body the benefits Montanans are seeing from tax reform.

It has been 6 months since President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law, and we are already seeing the results. The benefits of the tax cuts are not a theory. I see it when I meet with Montanans throughout the State.

Paychecks are growing. Montana businesses are making investments and creating jobs. In fact, since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law, 1 million new jobs have been created. The national unemployment rate matches the 49-year low, and Montanans' unemployment rate has dropped. America's economic growth is exceeding expectations.

Hardworking Montanans across the State, whether at the UPS facility in Missoula, at Big Sky Wholesale Seeds in Shelby, or at the Billings Flying

Service, have told me their paychecks have grown thanks to the tax reform act.

The owner of 11 fast-food restaurants throughout Montana told me in Great Falls that he was giving his employees a raise and increasing starting wages for all new employees.

A teacher in Billings in a public school there told me her monthly paycheck grew by over \$130.

Mr. Speaker, certain leaders have described the benefits from tax reform, whether bonuses or larger paychecks, as just crumbs. They call them crumbs. Tell that to the teacher in Billings who will keep nearly \$1,600 a year more of her hard-earned money.

According to a recent survey, small business optimism has reached another record high. That confidence is translating into investments and more jobs.

The owner of Westland Seed in Ronan reports he is hiring more people because of tax reform.

At a roundtable discussion about agriculture in Bozeman, a local farmer and food processor said tax reform contributed to his decision to double his staff from 6 to 12 employees.

Senior officials at the Boeing facility in Helena indicate they will add over 20 new employees this year.

Montana small businesses credit tax reform for their decisions to expand.

At a roundtable with women small-business owners in Bozeman, one entrepreneur said the new tax policies were a big part of her decision to launch two new businesses this year.

Other Montana businesses are making investments thanks to tax reform.

Loenbro, a Great Falls industrial construction and manufacturing firm that employs more than 600, said the tax reform immediately added 15 percent to their bottom line. Tax reform is leading them to increase worker benefits, enhance training programs, and invest in construction equipment that will create more jobs.

Billings Flying Service credits the full expensing provision for its decision to purchase new equipment. The company is also investing in new research and development for enhanced fire-fighting equipment.

In addition to larger paychecks, increased investment, greater small business confidence, and more good-paying jobs, more than 87 million utility customers are seeing lower energy prices.

Utility companies cite tax reform as the reason they are reducing their rates. Montanans are among those benefiting. According to recent reports, NorthWestern Energy and Montana-Dakota Utilities have proposed cutting their rates thanks to the new tax law.

Mr. Speaker, certain leaders in this Chamber warned that the tax cuts would be Armageddon. I don't know any hardworking Montanans who would agree that keeping more of their hard-earned money is Armageddon or that job creation is Armageddon or that small businesses succeeding is Armageddon or that a lower utility bill is Armageddon.

Tax reform isn't producing crumbs. Tax reform isn't leading to Armageddon. Mr. Speaker, tax reform is working in Montana.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, as we walk through these, there are fun little tidbits to understand.

Math is complicated and tax revenues—the fact of the matter is we are only where we are at in the year, so we are not completely done with the fiscal year. But we pulled up, a little while ago, the status from the amount of revenues up until April.

So in the 2017 fiscal year, at that April time, we had taken in \$456 billion in revenues. Revenues come from lots of different sources, but substantially they are from the economic activity in our Nation, the income tax, corporate tax, payroll taxes, and other things. So it was 456 last year. This year it is \$510 billion.

So understand that. It is not a complete fiscal year, but as our friend from Montana was just saying, there was such hyperbolic language from some of our friends on the other side that the world was going to come to an end, the fact of the matter is that revenues are blowing the doors off from where we thought they would be. This is a wonderful thing.

To tell one of the other stories, I will invite the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) to tell us what is happening in Colorado.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act because, as a former small-business owner, I know the immense challenges a complex Tax Code can present to business owners, workers, and families alike.

When H.R. 1 was signed into law, it opened the door to a new era of prosperity for Colorado and for our country, and the evidence is all around us:

We have already seen over 1 million jobs created;

Hundreds of companies have contributed \$4 billion in bonuses, impacting over 4 million workers;

The unemployment rate is at the lowest level that we have seen in a half a century; and

Small business optimism has hit an all-time high.

In Alamosa, Colorado, a small town in my district, tax reform has helped First Southwest Bank stay in town and provide financial services products to its community, a key driver of economic growth and success in smaller towns around the country.

As CEO Kent Curtis said after the passage of tax reform: "We're excited to take advantage of the tax reform and give the positive impact it has on First Southwest Bank right back to our team members and the rural Colorado community. By being able to provide a higher living wages to our starting employees and invest in our team, we can be a catalyst for economic growth and reaffirm our commitment

to a better quality of life in all of the rural Colorado communities our branches serve."

First Southwest Bank has raised its starting wage to \$14 an hour plus full benefits, a major success for a small community in southwest Colorado.

It is exactly businesses like this that are committed to their communities and to their neighbors that this historic tax reform package was intended to help.

Increased wages, along with changes to the tax bracket and standard deduction, mean Coloradans across the Third District have higher earning potential and can keep more of their hard-earned money, which spells economic growth. These improvements can help families take a vacation to one of our beloved national parks, put a down payment on a new car or a home, or be able to pay medical expenses.

Madam Speaker, the effects of this monumental tax reform effort are felt right here at home, and I am proud of the Coloradans who are working so hard to be able to improve their lives because of the opportunity this legislation has presented.

If I may, I would like to give you one personal story. I was in my hometown, and I had the opportunity to be able to go to a local restaurant. The young lady who was a server has two children. She went out of her way to come up and tell me that the extra \$50 to \$60 per week that she is getting in her paycheck is making a real difference in her family's life.

I told her there is better news actually coming, because when she gets ready to file those taxes this coming April 15, she is going to find that her personal exemption has doubled and that for her children, that child tax credit that she has counted on has doubled as well, putting more resources back into the pockets of the people who earn that money.

As my colleague from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) pointed out, when we put those resources back to work, back to work in that American economy, we find that it yields what many of our colleagues on the left would like to see more of: tax revenues coming into the government to be able to provide some of the essential services that we all know that we need.

But we need to be the country that is creating that fertile soil to be able to grow businesses, to be able to create opportunity for the future, and to be able to deliver on that promise for the American Dream for all of our children. This is a program and a policy that works on behalf of the American people.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I have a quick thought experiment for everyone.

If I had come to you a year ago and said that the United States would be at 3.8 percent unemployment, you would have laughed at me. If I had come to you and said that African American unemployment would be the lowest in

modern times, Hispanic unemployment would be tied with some of the lowest numbers in modern times, that you would be seeing data of felons being recruited out of prison for work because there is such a labor shortage, and when one of the greatest difficulties we have in our society right now in the labor force is not enough workers and too many jobs, why isn't there this sound of joy from every American that this was the dream so many of us had of where we would be?

So, as we go through our regions, I was going to invite Mr. CURTIS of Utah to come up and tell us what is happening in that beautiful State because I have actually seen some stories of the Salt Lake area and other parts of Utah just doing amazingly well right now.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to first of all express my appreciation to my colleague from Arizona for his good words and his acknowledgment of the economy in Utah.

Shortly after I had been elected, one of my very first votes cast in this Chamber was for tax reform. Since being signed into law, the positive impact tax reform has had on our economy has been absolutely astonishing. Not only has tax reform proven to be a tremendous success across America, it has proven particularly effective in my home State of Utah.

To simply say the U.S. economy is doing well would be a gross understatement. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I believe that small businesses are the lifeblood of the U.S. economy, and, certainly, they are in my district. That is why I have been pleased to see that the small business optimism index has reached its second highest level in the survey's 45-year history.

Consumer confidence is the highest we have seen in decades, and the unemployment rate in the United States is currently under 4 percent, and in my home State it is nearly 3 percent. In fact, for the first time since the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been keeping track, the number of available jobs now exceeds the number of unemployed U.S. workers.

Not only is the unemployment rate historically low, but 90 percent of American workers also have had higher take-home pay now as a direct result of tax reform. In Utah, we are seeing companies of all sizes investing in their employees by giving pay bonuses and raises.

A few high-profile examples include the Larry H. Miller Group of Companies, rewarding 10,000 employees with thousands of dollars in pay and bonuses. Zions Bank gave pay raises to 40 percent of its employees and thousands in bonuses to nearly 80 percent of its employees, and SkyWest Airlines increased bonuses and 401(k) contributions for their employees. These are only a few small examples of the many companies passing on benefits of tax reform to hardworking Utahns.

Tax reform is not only helping to put more money in hardworking Utahns' paychecks, but also lowering utility rates as well. Dominion Energy in Utah and the Division of Public Utilities is passing on \$17 million in tax savings to its customers by lowering energy rates.

Chris Parker, the division director of Utah Division of Public Utilities said: "Ever since Federal tax reform legislation was passed, our division has been working closely with the Public Service Commission and utilities to determine the best method to pass on tax savings to Utah customers. Consumers should begin seeing lower gas bills soon."

Madam Speaker, in the past few months, I have held over 50 townhall meetings and met with thousands of Utahns. They consistently express their appreciation for Congress' passing tax reform. They recognize that this historic effort is producing real results for hardworking Utah families. Simply put, Utahns are keeping more of their hard-earned money and are making more money as a direct result of tax reform, and the U.S. economy, for businesses, large and small, is roaring.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, there is actually some really fun and wonderful things we are seeing out there in the data. As we were also talking about the unemployment numbers, what has also been amazing is, if you look at home prices, if you actually look at savings rates, and if you actually look at a lot of the data that we care about as a society, it is important that we actually embrace and understand we are in what we would refer to as a Goldilocks economy.

□ 2045

Madam Speaker, if I had come to, like our previous thought experiment a year ago, and said we would be in this sort of world where the inflation numbers are within the calculation of the Fed targets, where we have more jobs than workers, when we are actually seeing incomes really beginning to rise, when we are actually seeing some first signs of data saying for the first time in decades that income inequality is actually shrinking because there are so many more of our brothers and sisters in the labor force with rising incomes, this would actually be really exciting.

I will make the challenge to every Member in Congress: How do we not screw it up? How do we keep that engine going forward?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO). She has the district right alongside me and she will basically tell the story of what she sees happening on the west side of Maricopa County.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has ignited a fire that the American economy hasn't seen in decades. The tax cuts and reforms passed by Congress have made a real impact on the lives of Americans

across the country and to the people in Arizona's Eighth Congressional District.

The tax cuts have allowed small business owners like Mike and Colleen Sutter to reinvest in their employees. They have owned a small business for the last 27 years in El Mirage in my district. Due to the tax cuts package, Mike and Colleen were able to give across-the-board pay increases and bonuses to their employees, including a \$3 an hour increase for hourly workers.

This historic tax reform legislation has also had a huge impact on those living on fixed incomes. Arizona Public Service Electric Company cut its power rates by \$119 million because of the tax cuts. These lower costs help seniors all over America and in my district.

With a simpler and fairer Tax Code, businesses are finally able to hire again, more than 1 million new jobs have been created, and there are more jobs available than there are unemployed Americans. Our Nation is in business again.

Americans are seeing more money in their paychecks, a reduced tax burden, and a roaring economy. The tax cuts have meant real dollars going back into the pockets of small businesses and families.

I thank my colleague from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for his commitment to commonsense tax reform.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative LESKO. I am so used to calling her DEBBIE, having known each other for so long.

What is also amusing here is, the next person I'm going to introduce, I have actually known most of my life, which is sort of terrifying. The three of us are from Arizona. I think we actually have a wonderful story to talk about what is happening in the Southwest, but particularly our State.

The fact of the matter is, with the tax reform, some of the regulatory changes, some of the wonderful things in the economy, Arizona is blessed. Right now, our State is doing very well.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) to tell us a bit about what is happening in the Southeast Valley.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, let me tell you, Maricopa County is the fastest growing county in the country; again, by a long shot. That is reflected because of the economy that is going on there.

In the town that I live in, the town of Gilbert, they just announced 2,500 new jobs coming in with Deloitte. That is fantastic. When I moved to Gilbert many years ago, there were 12,000 people and cotton fields everywhere. Today, it is 250,000 people and it is just gigantic.

The Arizona Free Enterprise Club has measured the reported job growth in Arizona since the tax cuts and tax reform bill came forward. We have 125,000

workers who have seen increases in salaries or bonuses. That totals \$215 million. Remember, that is just the reported benefits and bonuses and raises. The direct financial benefit as a result of tax reform for Arizona is over \$1 billion. We anticipate a positive impact of over \$1 billion in 2018. That is fantastic. In my district, the average family of four is going to receive tax relief in excess of \$2,635. That is the projection.

I can talk about the many events that we go to, the people we talk to. I was at an event recently. I was getting ready to leave and a gentleman came up to me and said: Are you Congressman BIGGS?

I said: Yes, I am.

He said: Thank you.

I said: Why is that?

He said: The tax reform. I am a bartender. I will keep \$5,000 more this year. I will have a net impact of a positive \$5,000.

I said: Well, do you care if I tell your story?

He said: Yes, tell my story.

We want to see this happen again and again. So I have a whole list I brought tonight. I can list Philip from Mesa who said that his wife's take-home pay has affected their household for the better. This is something they wanted specifically to mention. They don't consider the extra income to be "crumbs." It is meaningful to people, whether you are living paycheck to paycheck or whatever. This is meaningful to them.

Matt from Gilbert said that his increased tax refund for his business was appreciated and that he and his family will save literally thousands of dollars this year because of the tax cut laws.

Rusty is a veteran from Mesa. He told us that the tax plan has done wonders for him and his small business. He is passing this on to his employees and they will be making more money per month and he has extra revenue in the business because other people generate this economic activity.

This ripples through—it isn't like it is a one-off—it ripples through the entire economy. So they have hired a new employee. For a small business, that is a monumental decision: Do we have enough business? Do we have enough revenue to bring in a new employee? They hired someone. The tax cuts helped.

So I want to take just a quick second and tell you that I go out when I am in the district to various businesses and small business owners, anywhere from 5, 15, maybe 20, 25 people in their business. Every one of them that I have met with in the last year, probably, is looking to expand. They have the problem of finding qualified employees.

I have talked to the Governor in Arizona. We have literally hundreds of thousands of jobs where people are trying to hire folks and we can't get them in. This is a great thing to have, it is a great problem to have. I think we should be celebrating what is hap-

pening around this country. Particularly as a life-long Arizonan, I can tell you I am thrilled to see this happening in Arizona. We have bounced back from the 2008 recession.

I am so grateful for the effort that the gentleman from Arizona has put in to get this bill through, for his leadership. I am grateful to have him for a friend and serve with him in Congress. I thank him for doing this Special Order tonight. This message has got to get out to the American people.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I will have a little bit of a colloquy or a little bit of a conversation with the gentleman.

For those of us in Arizona, the gentleman has seen the data that came out about 2 weeks ago that turns out that Arizona is actually having what would be the fastest acceleration of income growth in the entire Nation. Some of that is because we were hit pretty hard in 2008. A lot of it is because our State legislature, our Governor, have engaged in very pro-economic expanded qualities.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman to tell everyone what he did before taking this job.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I used to be the Senate president in the State of Arizona for 4 years and had an opportunity to work there.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, the gentleman was there during some of the brutal years of the previous decade. The gentleman may remember the struggles of trying to keep the wheels on of how do you cover healthcare, education, and so many of the other needs that are in the State.

Actually, we have a rough situation. We own so little of our land that I have seen some data where we are the most urbanized State in the country because we functionally live in two major metroplexes. That is where most of our population is. And to have a State now, where we are seeing some revenue forecasts and every month it looks like they are having to raise that forecast because of the economic vitality in our State and most of the States around the country.

So I think there is often this misnomer of we talk about Federal tax reform. And I hold up a chart, it says: Last year at this time, we had \$456 billion in revenue and this year we are at this time \$510 billion. So a substantial increase.

But I think we failed to talk about what is happening in our community, in our city, our county, and our State revenues, which are also benefiting from this cascade of economic expansion.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, let's think about this for a second.

When Arizona entered the recession era of 2008, the State tax revenue declined by about 40 percent in an 8-month period. Imagine trying to deal with that. What is happening now is

the converse. We had to change our attitude. We had to create the type of business-friendly situation that lured and brought business back and provide those enticements. They are there.

So what we have now is this situation localized of a business-friendly Tax Code, a business-friendly regulatory and then an overall attitude of: We want you to be here. We welcome new businesses.

So, for instance, I toured Apple world data center in my district a little over a week ago. It kind of imploded, so there was no one there. What happened is, they now have 200 employees and they will expand. They will have 500 employees in high-paying, good jobs. Every one of those employees they spend money. They buy houses. They go out to eat. They go to movies. This ripples through the economy. And that is just one of the many businesses. Like I said, we have Deloitte coming in, with 2,500. We have got State Farm, I think, in or near the gentleman's district. When they are in, they are going to have 8,000 to 10,000 people. I was just at their facility.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, we just finished a visit to the McKesson facility that is on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and they are talking about several hundred additional positions.

As we sort of talk about this, we actually had a really neat experience about a month ago. The Arizona correctional system has sort of a pilot program that has been up and running for about a year.

So picture this. We are in the Ways and Means room, we are holding a hearing. And sitting on the table before us is the woman who is a friend of ours who is the Central Arizona Homebuilders representative and over here is a gentleman with a very large electrical contracting company. The person sitting in the middle there with tattoos and those sorts of things is, I think, a three-time convicted felon who actually now is making \$22 an hour and telling the story of how he had a substance abuse problem and had multiple times fallen back into that lifestyle. This time, he actually said: I am going to give this a try.

They set up job training in the prison solely funded by the businesses, because they actually need electricians and carpenters and other things. They did the job training in the prison with a deal that if they finish this program, we will guarantee you a job. It doesn't mean they guarantee they are going to keep you, because you still have got to show up, you have to demonstrate productivity.

But think about a world where the economy is so vibrant that businesses are actually going and reaching into our prison communities and doing job training and actually offering employment.

I guess my heartbreak is I thought there would be this sense of joy around

here in Washington that we have actually passed a level that so many economists just a couple of years ago said we could never reach, this level of economic vitality, where we are actually seeing felons being able to be pulled into society's workforce.

□ 2100

We see programs like that in our State that are being creative, because we need those carpenters; we need those plumbers; we need those electricians. He started, I guess, at like \$13 an hour. Within a year, he was up to \$22, because he was productive, and he showed up to work on time.

He had one of the greatest quotes of all time. He says: I am working so many hours, I haven't had a chance to relapse.

It turns out maybe there is something to that saying about idle hands.

Mr. BIGGS. If you analyze it, that is a twofer, right? We are all concerned about the rehabilitation and reentry of people who have been in prison back into society. This is one way to do it. Give them an opportunity to get that skill and get job-placed.

The second thing is—and it speaks specifically to what we are talking about here today—we should be overjoyed in this country to see the economic vibrancy that is going on, the reshaping, and, if I can say it, the renewal, the economic renewal, that we have needed.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I am one of the people who have to actually admit to this, that, often, as Republicans, we sound like accountants on steroids. We are looking at the numbers. We want to do policy by facts and not feelings, because when you do things by feelings, you end up, ultimately, hurting people. When you do it by facts, you actually build something that is sustainable.

This is one of the moments where a lot of the economic theories we have talked about, if you would lighten and go to a more rational regulatory model, if you would design a Tax Code that got rid of these incentives to move your profits overseas and pull your expenses into the United States and go to a territorial system where you had the vitality, where capital would flow in, where you actually gave businesses the incentive to actually buy much more efficient capital equipment—because the way you pay people more is we have to get more productive as a society.

Yes, some of the barriers we were worried about were: Will folks get this tax benefit and spend it all? Now we have seen some data, which is different than how CBO modeled it. People are paying off debt and other things, so the capital stock in our country is going up.

There are just really good things. Right now, we have a labor shortage, and you can see something amazing.

Take a look at things like Social Security Disability. A year ago, it had

only like a year before the trust fund was empty. Now we are seeing some things that it may be 5, 7, 8 years now, just substantially because we did change some rules, and we tightened up.

We also have so many more people paying in and working, and many of our brothers and sisters in the country making a decision saying: "I could pursue a disability claim, or I could go into the workforce." They are going into the workforce.

So there are all these tells out there right now. The gentleman sees it in his community. I am blessed to see it in my community.

How do we keep it going? Because, it turns out, the economic vitality is a powerful thing for families, their ability to save for their retirement, for their kids' education, for being able to pay off, let's face it, a certain amount of debt that built up over a pretty rough decade, particularly being a State like ours with so many people who are coming to it for opportunity.

As the gentleman talks to small businesses, and I talk to small businesses and even big businesses, we have this conversation: How do we keep it going, and how do we keep it going for as long as possible?

Those are the policies we are chasing.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I agree with the gentleman. We want to keep it going. We follow this idea of a business cycle, but there are ways to smooth out and flatten out that business cycle.

I also agree with what the gentleman said where we start talking about individuals, because too often our narrative is just: How do we flatten out the business cycle? That type of thing.

I have Allan in Mesa who said: My standard of living has gone up.

I have Dottie in Mesa who said that the tax cuts are a good thing, that they see more money in their pockets because of these tax cuts.

These are the people and the individuals that I see on a regular basis. I know the gentleman sees them.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. This is one of my favorite stories. About 6 weeks ago, maybe 2 months ago, I believe it was Starbucks that gave the bonus, and I am in my favorite Starbucks. As the gentleman knows, I have a coffee problem and openly admit it. If anyone wants to start a 12-step program, we are holding the meetings at a coffee shop.

I walk in. I am not someone you typically would be jumping up and down to see, you know, a fairly conservative Republican Congressman. She looks at me and goes: "Dude, thank you."

She had just gotten, I guess, a bonus check from her employer, and she actually understood what it meant monetarily to her. It was one of the neatest conversations I had with this young woman as I am ordering my coffee about how excited she was to have the money and what it meant to her to pay off some bills and just how things were going.

That is when it starts to click. That is when it is more than just sitting behind tables with stacks of binders and spreadsheets and analytical reports and feedback loops of what the tax reform is going to do and growing the size of the economy, when it gets down to those individual lives.

Look, I often walk around with this app. It is from the Atlanta Federal Reserve. Madam Speaker, if I had come to you even months ago and said: "The Atlanta Federal Reserve has the calculation for this quarter, at this moment, at a 4.6 percent GDP growth," you would have worried about my mental health. It turns out, that is actually what the number is.

The odds are that it doesn't stay there, and it is going to go through cycles, but that number is stunning. The bias has been, actually, over 4 in the last handful of data points. I know I am back to speaking like an accountant on steroids, but the fact of the matter is that we have some pretty rough things coming toward us as a society. We are getting older very fast. We have tremendous unfunded liabilities in Medicare. We have issues on Social Security.

We will find a way to keep our promises to those folks who have paid into those programs. Turns out, making the math work is a lot easier if you have a society, an economy, that has actually been able to hold economic growth rather than one that has been in the troughs as we were for the previous decade.

How do we sort of tell that story to folks who may be on the left or those who are just trying to raise their families or those of us who our constituents are paying attention? This really is that moment where the rising tide raises boats and opportunity for everyone.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, the gentleman is right. That is how you communicate the story, because the story, Madam Speaker and Representative SCHWEIKERT, is that we can have a vital economy.

It wasn't too many years ago when we were told 1.8 percent GDP growth would be it.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I remember when the gentleman first got here, and we were going over those models. They were like 1.8, 1.9, and that was our future. Let's face it, we have blown that off the rails.

Mr. BIGGS. We have blown it off the rails. When people are economically free and they have growth. They feel freer. They feel happier. Why is that? Because the wolf is not always at the door. They have moved beyond kind of that bare subsistence.

That is really what I am finding as I go meet with my constituents. I talk to them. I am in a machine shop: What is going on here?

Well, we have 18 workers. We think we could bring three more on.

I said: Well, what is your problem?

We have to find the workers, and we have to train them. We are going to invest in them and train them.

That is what people are doing. That is what businesses, small and large, are doing. They are investing in people now. That is what you see when you have a good economy, because they want to bring people in. They need to bring people in.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. In that same vein, it was only a couple of years ago, actually behind these same mikes, that a discussion was had of the sort of concept of people being trapped, trapped in their house because they were underwater, trapped in their job because they didn't have mobility and options.

For a State like Arizona, the fact of the matter is that your ability to sell your home and get a job in another State because you are choosing to move to the Southwest is important to our growth. You could actually see that in the migration statistics around the country of how many people, because of the thin employment market, job opportunities, were underwater in their homes.

As the job opportunities and our real estate values and the stability of the economy have come back, all of a sudden, you are seeing people have this thing called choice, options, the ability to move around the country, pursue their dreams, pursue those careers, change jobs.

I think, actually, that is what the American Dream is supposed to look like. If you have a dream of living in a certain part of the country or pursuing a certain career, you get to do it. You get to do it because the economy is working.

Madam Speaker, as we started to talk early on, if you really do love and care for people, take a look at what is happening to the income and employment statistics of so many groups that have been disaffected in our population for the last decade. They had a really rough decade, and they are coming back, their opportunity, their ability to save for their retirement, their future, and their kids.

There should be a sense of joy. There should be, actually, sort of a uniform discussion between the right and the left of how we keep it going, because it is not only things I fixate on, of being able to have revenues or being able to cover our unfunded liabilities and our entitlements, but also that ability to have a society that is healthier, that actually the income gaps shrink because there is mobility and growth.

Populations that so many of the so-called smart people, the economists, had almost written off as the marginally employable—which is, if you take a step sideways, it is just really cruel. Those people are finding a way to come back into the economic part of our society.

I know when the gentleman was in the State legislature, he had worked on a job training program, and now we are actually seeing some really interesting data in Arizona where the employers themselves are saying: We are so desperate for employees, we will do the job

training. We will take someone who is not even from our field, and we will train them.

It turns out that has been incredibly successful, because you are actually trained not in a job training program over here and then you get trained again for the actual job you have taken, but now you are being trained for that rhythm.

I know there has been just tremendous employment growth in the south-east valley. I think it is a type of high-tech CNC machine shop that some friends own in the gentleman's district, and they are talking about even taking in very young people and training them right there on site.

Mr. BIGGS. Yes. Madam Speaker and Congressman SCHWEIKERT, that is what I am talking about. When I go into the machine shops, they are doing very technical, very high-quality machining. They are bringing kids out of high school, and they are training them. They are saying: This is the job you are going to get.

These kids are walking out without any university debt. They are also walking into a job that is going to pay them a lot of money and can be a great career, where they can make money and have an adequate career to sustain and support themselves, their family, for a life.

This is really one of the beautiful things that happens when you have this choice that the gentleman talked about, this mobility. That happens when you have a strong and solid economy.

Madam Speaker, I think the gentleman and I would agree: The economic foundation that allows these types of individuals and families and small businesses and big businesses to grow and provide interesting and creative developments in our society, it starts with us not having a confiscatory tax policy. It also continues by having a regulatory environment that, instead of disincentivizing or having perverse incentives, provides incentives for people to expand and be creative in the economy.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I ask Congressman BIGGS: Those of us who see these numbers, how do we find a way to humanize that discussion? We want to talk about economic vitality and these things, but there is almost this cruelty of you are going to remain unemployed, you are going to remain underemployed, you are going to remain undercompensated, you are not educated well enough to come into the mainstream.

We have demonstrated in the last several months that that doesn't have to be the America we live in, that we are seeing individuals who were substantially marginalized in our society finding employment and finding opportunity and finding that economic vitality and growth.

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We are looking for a way to humanize the story that, it turns out, a ro-

bust economy actually is really good for families, for individuals, for your future, for just the individual psyche. And maybe there is an artist out there of language who can help us find an elegant way to say this story.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, he did a good job tonight. He talked about his Starbucks experience. He talked about the young man, and I have met him, who is reentering from the prison.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, it is a powerful story.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, these are powerful stories.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I think he is his constituent.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I think he is. He may be, yes.

We have talked about 8 to 10 stories, brief stories, that I brought up tonight of individuals, and, if I can humbly suggest, those are the things that, Madam Speaker, Congressman SCHWEIKERT, myself, and every one of our colleagues need to be continually reiterating, because these stories, these aren't one-off stories. These are going to be a lifetime of stories for these individuals, and we will find many, many more, as I do every time I go out.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I know I kept him longer than I promised to, but I never get the chance to talk.

Madam Speaker, I have appreciated this block of time. I appreciate your patience with us, particularly talking about Arizona, but it is—you know, we love our State, and we are very, very proud of how far it has come. We are proud of the fact that we are leading much of the Nation in growth—in population growth, economic growth, income growth—and it is, in many ways, our moral goal around here to keep this vitality up for every American.

Whether you live in a red State, blue State, whatever you pursue, you should have the ability and the opportunity to pursue that. We want to make the powerful argument that where we have gotten this country to economically right now is pretty darn amazing.

Now, can we do even more? Our goal is we are going to even make it better.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IMMIGRATION SOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHENEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I don't have any notes in front of me. I just want to speak a little bit to this body about a topic that has been in the news, even as of this evening, and to just let folks know and to remind folks again about why we are pushing so hard to solve a problem that appears so easy to solve: the issue of the DACA